

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Santa Barbara County Parks Water System Upgrades at Lake Cachuma Campground

FONSI-09-173

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Introduction

In accordance with section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the South-Central California Area Office of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), has determined that an environmental impact statement is not required for the awarding of an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Water Marketing and Efficiency Challenge grant for the Santa Barbara County Parks Water System Upgrades Project at Lake Cachuma Campground (Project). This Finding of No Significant Impact is supported by Reclamation's Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) Number EA-09-173, Santa Barbara County Parks Water System Upgrades at Lake Cachuma Campground, and is hereby incorporated by reference.

Background

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) is an economic stimulus package, worth up to \$787 billion, which was signed into law on February 17, 2009 for the purpose of stimulating the United States economy during a significant economic downturn. The Department of the Interior has been tasked with managing \$3 billion in investments as part of ARRA in order to jumpstart the economy, create or save jobs, and address long-neglected challenges. Of the \$3 billion, \$1 billion will be invested in water infrastructure across the United States by the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). Out of the \$1 billion, \$260 million will go to projects in California that will expand water supplies, repair aging water infrastructure, and mitigate the effects of a devastating drought the state is currently experiencing. An additional \$135 million is available for ARRA-funded grants for water reuse and recycling projects. Through Reclamation's Water Marketing and Efficiency Challenge grant program (Challenge grant), Reclamation provides 50/50 cost share funding for projects approved under the grant, some of which are ARRA-funded.

The County of Santa Barbara Parks Department (Parks), on behalf of Reclamation, administers the Lake Cachuma Campground as part of the Cachuma Lake Recreation Area located on the Santa Ynez River approximately 25 miles northwest of Santa Barbara, California. New fire codes and standards have been developed by the Santa Barbara County Fire Chief which requires additional water supply availability for fire suppression and health and safety needs than what is currently available at the campground. Consequently, Parks has applied for an ARRA-funded Challenge grant from Reclamation for the Project which involves the relocation and replacement of aging infrastructure of their existing Water Treatment Plant and the addition of a second water storage reservoir with associated appurtenances and pipelines.

Parks will implement the following environmental protection measures to reduce environmental consequences associated with the Proposed Action (see Table 1). Environmental consequences for resource areas assume the measures specified will be fully implemented.

Table 1 Environmental Protection Measures

Resource	Protection Measure
Air Quality	If the construction site is graded and left undeveloped for over four weeks, the
	applicant shall employ the following methods immediately to inhibit dust generation:

	seeding and watering to re-vegetate graded areas; and/or
	spreading of soil binders; and/or
A: 0 III	any other methods deemed appropriate by Parks.
Air Quality	Dust generated by the development activities shall be kept to a minimum with a goal of retaining dust on the site. Follow the dust control measures listed below: • During clearing, grading, earth moving, excavation, or transportation of cut or fill materials, water trucks or sprinkler systems are to be used to prevent
	dust from leaving the site and to create a crust after each day's activities cease.
	 During construction, water trucks or sprinkler systems shall be used to keep all areas of vehicle movement damp enough to prevent dust from leaving the site. At a minimum, this will include wetting down such areas in the later morning and after work is completed for the day and whenever wind exceeds 15 miles per hour.
	Soil stockpiled for more than two days shall be covered, kept moist, or treated with soil binders to prevent dust generation.
Air Quality	The contractor or builder shall designate a person or persons to monitor the dust
	control program and to order increased watering as necessary to prevent transport of dust off-site. Their duties shall include holiday and weekend periods when work may not be in progress.
Biological Resources	In order to protect existing oak trees and minimize adverse effects of grading and construction onsite, a Tree Protection and Replacement Plan (see Appendix B) shall be implemented. No ground disturbance including grading or trenching shall occur within six feet of the dripline (dripline buffer area) of any oak tree unless specifically authorized on approved plans.
	Any protected oaks trees which are removed, relocated and/or damaged shall be replaced on a 10:1 basis with 1 gallon size saplings grown from seed obtained from the same watershed as the project site.
Biological Resources	A re-vegetation or restoration plan shall be implemented. The plan shall utilize native, fast growing, vegetation that will quickly cover the outlet structure to the storm drain, and thrive in a rocky environment for erosion control.
Biological Resources	Biological surveys shall be done by Reclamation-approved biologists no later than two weeks prior to construction activities during the bird nesting season (February 15 through September 15). If nesting birds are observed within 200 feet of construction/grading areas, all construction or grading activities shall be postponed or halted at the discretion of the biologist until the nest is vacated and the juveniles have fledged.
Biological Resources	Outlet structures for energy dissipation shall minimize disturbance to the natural drainage and avoid the use of unnatural materials, such as concrete, grouted rock, and asphalt rubble. Where hard bank materials must be used, natural rock, gabions, crib wall or other more natural means of energy dissipation shall be preferred. Rock grouting shall only be used if no other feasible alternative is available as determined by Parks.
Biological Resources	Best available erosion and sediment control measures shall be implemented during grading and construction. Best available erosion and sediment control measures may include but are not limited to use of sediment basins, gravel bags, silt fences, geo-bags or gravel and geotextile fabric berms, erosion control blankets, coir rolls, jute net, and straw bales. Storm drain inlets shall be protected from sediment-laden waters by use of inlet protection devices such as gravel bag barriers, filter fabric fences, block and gravel filters, and excavated inlet sediment traps. Sediment control measures shall be maintained for the duration of the grading period and until graded areas have been stabilized by structures, long-term erosion control measures or landscaping. Construction entrances and exits shall be stabilized using gravel beds, rumble plates, or other measures to prevent sediment from being tracked onto adjacent roadways. Any sediment or other materials tracked off site shall be removed the same day as they are tracked using dry cleaning methods.
Cultural Resources	Monitoring by Archaeologist and Native American Cultural Monitors during construction activities.

Reclamation's finding that implementation of the Proposed Action will result in no significant impact to the quality of the human environment is supported by the following factors:

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Water Resources

Under the Proposed Action, an additional 200,000 gallons will be extracted from Lake Cachuma for storage in the new water tank. This additional storage will be used to meet the County Fire Chief's new codes and standards for fire suppression availability. The water used for fire suppression will come from the Santa Barbara County Water Agency's contracted water allocation and will not impact water rights or fish releases. There will be no impacts to water deliveries as the small amount of water will be less than one acre and will come from an existing contract. There will be no impacts to federal facilities. Therefore, there will be no significant impacts to water resources as a result of the Proposed Action.

Recreation

The Proposed Action will represent a minor loss of recreational space and impacts to natural open space and wildlife habitat; however, it will not change current recreational uses within the campground. Under the Proposed Action, the campground water supply system will be upgraded to better serve existing recreational uses. There will be no temporary impacts to recreational use of the campground as no roads will be closed down due to construction of the facilities. Consequently, the Proposed Action will have no significant impacts to recreational use.

Biological Resources

Effects from the Proposed Action will include temporary and permanent effects to the landscape and vegetation. The new Water Treatment facility will be in the previously developed campground area, which is currently a combination of paved parking area and irrigated non-native lawn. No significant vegetation will be lost for the new Water Treatment facility, as the Proposed Action will construct the new facility on the non-native grass area and the removed facility will no longer exist. There is a native oak nearby that could be affected by the construction of the new facility, primarily by damage from the construction equipment. The environmental commitments, however, include protection measures that will prevent (avoid) those effects by maintaining a buffer around the tree.

The new Water Storage Tank will result in the loss of six live oak trees and will result in the degradation of approximately 0.5 acres, but not more than one acre, of oak woodland habitat. There are also nearby oaks not planned for removal that warrant protection during construction activities, and which will be protected by the same environmental commitments described earlier. Mitigation for the removed oak trees has been identified as replacement planting, at a ratio of 10:1 (planted oaks:removed oaks), which will offset the effects of the lost trees.

Use of water from Lake Cachuma to supply the Water Storage Tank will require approximately 200,000 gallons. One acre-foot is approximately 325,000 gallons. This water, while a relatively minimal amount in comparison to the 205,000 acre-foot capacity of the lake (0.0003%), will not reduce the amount of water dedicated and available to implement the Biological Opinion, and thus will not affect the listed steelhead trout. The small amount of water will not noticeably reduce the

amount of water in the lake that supports the fish species inhabiting the lake, nor will it noticeably reduce the amount of water available and used by species downstream of the dam to the confluence with the Pacific Ocean.

Effects to local wildlife, primarily bird species, resulting from the construction of the Proposed Action, will be the result of disturbance of roosting and foraging habitat, and potentially of nesting habitat. The environmental commitments included as part of the Proposed Action, specifically, the avoidance of work during the nesting period if any nests are identified, will avoid effects to nesting birds. There are also a large number of other potential roosting and foraging sites within the immediate proximity of the project area that will support any temporarily displaced birds. None of the bird species that are known in the area that might be using the County park as roosting or foraging habitat have home range sizes large enough that inter- or intraspecific competition will preclude use of those proximate sites.

There will therefore be No Effect to species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), or to critical habitats designated under the ESA.

Cultural Resources

The Proposed Action will occur in an area where cultural resources, particularly those of an archaeological nature are present. Two cultural resource inventory efforts have identified that the Proposed Action will occur in an area of known cultural resources but will not adversely effect them pursuant to the regulations at 36 CFR Part 800.5(b). Reclamation has initiated consultation with the California State Historic Preservation Officer seeking their concurrence on this finding. Given the nature of the overall landform where the Proposed Action will occur, and the fact that there remains a high potential for cultural resources buried below the surface will be removed during project implementation, Reclamation is requiring both the use of Archaeological monitors and Native American Cultural Monitors during ground disturbing actions associated with the project. The costs for these shall be borne by the project proponent. All post review discoveries will be handled through the post review process in the Section 106 regulations located at 36 CFR Part 800.13. In the event that a finding of adverse effect is made during a post review discovery, Reclamation will resolve adverse effects following the resolution of adverse effect process located at 36 CFR Part 800.6. Utilizing this process, the Proposed Action will result in no significant impacts to cultural resources.

Indian Trust Assets

The Proposed Action has no potential to impact Indian Trust Assets as there are none in the action area. The nearest Indian Trust Asset is a Public Domain Allotment approximately six miles southwest of the Proposed Action location.

Land Use

The Proposed Action will represent a minor loss of recreational space and impacts to natural open space and wildlife habitat; however, it will not change current land uses within the campground. Under the Proposed Action, the campground water supply system will be upgraded to better serve existing land uses. Consequently, the Proposed Action will maintain current land uses and will have no significant impacts to land use.

Socioeconomic Resources

The Proposed Action will have a slight beneficial impact as additional, but temporary, jobs are created during the construction period. The additional fire suppression infrastructure will provide increased fire suppression capabilities which could protect facilities within the campground. This could provide a potential beneficial impact to socioeconomic resources within the campground.

Environmental Justice

The Proposed Action will not cause dislocation, changes in employment, or increase flood, drought, or disease nor will it disproportionately impact economically disadvantaged or minority populations. Therefore, there will be no significant impacts to Environmental Justice as a result of the Proposed Action.

Air Quality

Estimated construction emissions were calculated for the Proposed Action utilizing the *Urbemis* 2007 Version 9.2.4 model and are well below the federal de minimis standards. Additionally, Parks has incorporated mitigation measures that will reduce air quality impacts from fugitive dust (see Table 1). Therefore, there will be no significant impacts to air quality as a result of the Proposed Action and a conformity analysis is not required.

Global Climate Change

Short-term impacts will consist of Carbon dioxide (CO²) emissions during construction. Estimated CO² emissions for the Proposed Action are 363.41 metric tons which are well below the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 25,000 metric tons per year threshold for annually reporting greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Accordingly, the Proposed Action will result in below *de minimis* impacts to global climate change.

Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts result from incremental impacts of a Proposed Action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time. Significance exists if it is reasonable to anticipate a cumulatively significant impact on the environment. To determine whether cumulatively significant impacts are anticipated from the Proposed Action, the incremental effect of the Proposed Action was examined together with impacts from past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions in the same geographic area.

There are several other projects currently being worked on or proposed for the Lake Cachuma Campground. These include:

• The Mohawk Restroom Remodel Project which includes the remodeling and expansion of the existing Mohawk restroom in order to be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Parks applied to Reclamation for funding of these projects. Environmental analysis for the project was completed on February 25, 2010 (CEC-09-176) which found the project to have no significant impacts on the environment.

- Live Oak Restrooms Project which includes the construction of a new ADA-compliant restroom to replace existing showers and portable toilets. Leach fields for the project have already been constructed.
- A new boat ramp extension project.
- Miscellaneous ADA upgrade projects for the docks and fishing piers.
- Repayement projects for deteriorating roads within the recreation area.

An additional project in the area that will connect with Lake Cachuma includes the South Coast Conduit /Upper Reach Reliability Project proposed by Reclamation and the Cachuma Operations and Maintenance Board. The purpose of this project is to increase the operational flexibility, reliability, and the conveyance capacity of the South Coast Conduit between the South Portal of the Tecolote Tunnel and the Corona Del Mar Water Treatment Plan in order to accommodate peak demand levels and to allow maintenance of the pipeline.

The Proposed Action will not impact the implementation of these projects. While the emissions of one single project will not cause global climate change, GHG emissions from multiple projects could result in an impact. It is unlikely that all proposed projects within the area will be done at the same time. The demolition of the existing treatment facility, construction of a new Water Treatment Facility, and addition of a new water tank could contribute to short-term global climate change impacts due to emissions of CO₂ during construction. However, the estimated CO₂ emissions from the Proposed Action are well below the EPA's 25,000 metric tons per year threshold for reporting GHG emissions. Construction emissions are also well below the *de minimis* thresholds established by the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District. As a result, the Proposed Action is not expected to contribute to cumulative significant impacts to global climate change or air quality.

The small amount of water required for fire suppression will not impact water deliveries for water rights, fish, or Central Valley Project contractors. Water taken out of the lake for use by the campground will continue as it has in the past; only at the new Water Treatment Facility instead of the old one. Additional water from the lake will be stored within the new water tank for future fire suppression use. Subsequent refilling of the tank will be infrequent. Therefore, the Proposed Action is not expected to have cumulative significant impacts to water resources.

Since there are no impacts to biological resources, recreation, land use, cultural resources, Indian Trust Assets, and Environmental Justice from the Proposed Action when examined with other past, present, and future project impacts there will be no contribution to cumulative impacts on these resources areas. Slight beneficial impacts to socioeconomics from the increase in fire suppression capability due to the added infrastructure are within historical variations and will not contribute to cumulative impacts. Overall there will be no significant cumulative impacts caused by the Proposed Action.